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C.I.A. Papers Indicate Domestic Surveillance Was More Extensive

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WASHINGTON, March 8 — Formerly classified documents released by the Central Intelligence Agency show that its Office of Security conducted far more extensive surveillance activities inside the United States in the period of the Vietnam war than was previously known.

The documents reveal that the agency's Office of Security kept files in the Vietnam War that indexed 50,000 members of the California Peace and Freedom Party alone. It was one of hundreds of antiwar groups under agency surveillance at the time.

Previous investigations have reported the existence of the Office of Security's files but have placed the total number of names indexed at no more than 16,000.

The once-classified documents, released to the Peace and Freedom Party late last year on a request under the Freedom of Information Act, are dated March and May 1974 and indicate there was a dispute inside the agency over an order to abolish the listing of Peace and Freedom Party members.

"The actual indexing during this period, of some 50,000 names and addresses of registered members of the California P.F.P. was undoubtedly deemed justified and was based on policy emanating from the Director of Security's Office," one document noted. At the time, the document added, there had been acts of violence against C.I.A. facilities on college campuses and protests against agency recruiting efforts, all linked to antiwar activities.

"Such indexing of a name," the document said, "did not automatically denote something derogatory about the individual but was deemed to be done for lead purposes only."

The agency documents raise questions about two major investigations into unauthorized domestic C.I.A. activities: the 1975 Rockefeller commission report and the later hearings of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

In its report, the commission headed by the then Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller cited the testimony of one senior Office of Security official who "guessed" that the number of names included in that office's domestic files was "somewhere between 12,000 and 16,000." The report also said 500 to 800 files were created on dissenting organizations and "specific key individuals."

In its final report in 1976 on domestic surveillance, the Senate committee relied extensively on the Rockefeller commission data. One former senior staff member of the committee, told about the new documents, said "it is always possible" the committee did not get accurate information from the C.I.A.

Agency officials had no immediate comment, citing the difficulty of locating

relevant documents.

The two C.I.A. documents released to the Peace and Freedom Party initially were published last December by The Santa Cruz Sentinel but attracted no attention nationally. Subsequently, the Center for National Security Studies, a nonprofit Washington research organization that often has been critical of intelligence activities, made the document available.

The center's director, Morton H. Halperin, a former White House and Defense Department official, noted that the C.I.A. was formally seeking authorization to collect again some domestic intelligence in the proposed new intelligence charter now being discussed in Congress.

"If the Rockefeller commission concluded that the number of files the agency collected went too far" when the new documents suggest that the agency "withheld or did not report" all its surveillance, Mr. Halperin said, "then obviously this new information suggests that the legislation needs to be tightened."

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